



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 09 May 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- Finextra reports a computer containing confidential information on mortgage customers of Wells Fargo has been reported as missing and may have been stolen while being transported between Wells Fargo facilities by a global express shipping company. (See item [10](#))
- Knight Ridder Tribune reports the dominant forgery—and–distribution network in the U.S. is controlled by the Castorena Family Organization, which makes tens of millions of dollars selling counterfeit Social Security cards, driver's licenses, and other identity papers to illegal immigrants. (See item [11](#))
- WCVB–TV reports Massachusetts Port Authority workers have been found sleeping on their work shifts, as well as allowing unauthorized individuals to remain in the parking garages. (See item [13](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES–ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *May 05, Sacramento Bee (CA)* — **Mirant closing two plants: Blackouts still unlikely because of cushion.** California's cushion of surplus electricity got a little thinner Thursday, May 4. Mirant Corp. said it plans to mothball two major Bay Area power plants because it has

been unable to negotiate long-term contracts with any power purchasers. The plants have a generating capacity totaling a little more than 1,000 megawatts (MW), enough power for 750,000 homes. The shutdown of the plants, in Antioch and Pittsburg, would cut into the state's margin for error this summer but wouldn't seriously deplete supplies, officials say. State officials believe that maintaining a healthy surplus is key to avoiding a repeat of the 2000–2001 energy crisis. "The loss of 1,000 MW is not going to put us into blackouts...we've got a cushion," said spokesperson Stephanie McCorkle of the Independent System Operator (ISO). She said the ISO will continue working with Mirant to try to keep the two plants going.

Source: <http://powermarketers.net/content/inc.net/newsreader.asp?ppa=8knpp%5E%5BhginklVski%216C%29bfe1%5Dv>

2. *May 05, Star-Ledger (NJ)* — **Bill comes due for reactor sentries.** In the weeks after the September 11 terrorist attacks, New Jersey officials ordered the National Guard and State Police to guard the state's two nuclear power plants. The troopers and Guardsmen are still there — at an annual cost of \$4.4 million. Now, Governor Jon Corzine wants to help balance the state budget by billing the plant operators, Exelon and PSEG Nuclear, for the round-the-clock coverage at their two South Jersey complexes. But spokespersons for the companies said Thursday, May 4, the companies are not inclined to pay because their internal security measures meet rigorous standards set by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which does not mandate additional military or police protection to supplement a plant's own security force. Pete Resler, a spokesperson for Exelon of Chicago, which operates the Oyster Creek plant in Lacey Township, said the company has spent more than \$20 million since the terrorist attacks to beef up security. PSEG Nuclear spokesperson Skip Sidoni said his company, which operates the Salem and Hope Creek reactors in Lower Alloways Creek Township, has spent \$50 million on security upgrades over the past five years.

Source: http://www.nj.com/printer/printer.ssf?/base/news-3/114680591_1227840.xml&coll=1

3. *May 04, Agence France-Press* — **Japan to capture CO₂ at Australian power plant in world first.** A Japanese consortium hopes to capture carbon dioxide emissions at an Australian power plant by 2009 in a world first. Under the plan, about 20 percent of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) released by the plant would be trapped, liquefied, then stored underground rather than released into the atmosphere. The Nihon Keizai business daily said J Power and Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries would lead the project alongside the Japanese industry ministry and Australian, U.S., and European firms. Construction of the CO₂-liquefying facility is expected to begin in 2007 and be ready two years later, the report said. If successful, the process could allow power companies to use increased quantities of cheaper and more plentiful coal in their generators rather than costly oil. The carbon dioxide sequestration process is currently in experimental use on some oil and gas fields.

Source: <http://www.physorg.com/news65969938.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4. *May 08, WWLTV (LA)* — **Chemical spill prompts partial highway closure in Louisiana.** A chemical spill, involving a small amount of hydrochloric acid, on the West Bank resulted in the closure of a section of Louisiana Highway 90, Causeway Police said Monday, May 8. As a

result of the cleanup, Highway 90 was closed near the intersection of Highway 90 and LA 18 in the southbound direction.

Source: <http://www.wvltv.com/local/stories/wwl050806khchemspill.202b a262.html>

5. *May 07, Times Leader (PA)* — **Chemical plume prompts brief road closure.** A cloud of yellow–orange vapors and a sulfur–like odor wafted over part of York, PA, Saturday, May 6, after an accident at the Enviro of Pennsylvania Inc. hazardous waste processing plant. The fumes were released when sulfuric and nitric acids mixed inside an 11,000–gallon tank and residual materials suspended in the acids reacted. Roads around the business were briefly closed as a precaution.
Source: <http://www.timesleader.com/mld/timesleader/14524399.htm>
6. *May 06, Pasadena Star–News (CA)* — **Golf course evacuated after acid spill.** A golf course in Rosemead, CA, was evacuated and a shelter–in–place order issued Friday, May 5, after muriatic acid leaked from a nearby water treatment plant and into the flood control wash. Monterey Park City Manager Chris Jeffers said the leak came from one of their water treatment vessels, which collapsed for some reason. The city also has water wells at the location.
Source: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci_3791996

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *May 07, Washington Post* — **Lawmakers want more data on contracting out intelligence.** Congress is taking its first steps to oversee the Department of Defense's (DoD) rapidly growing activities in the foreign and domestic intelligence fields, focusing also on the growing practice of contracting out intelligence analysis to former military personnel. The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, in its version of the fiscal 2007 intelligence authorization bill, has called for enhanced reporting requirements on the Counterintelligence Field Activity (CIFA), the Pentagon's newest and fastest–growing intelligence agency. Last week, the Senate Armed Services Committee ordered expanded reporting on defense contractor employment of former senior DoD officials and interagency contracting. At a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Tuesday, May 2, John Gannon, a former CIA deputy director for intelligence and later the first staff director of the House Homeland Security Committee, joined others who have raised questions about the growth of contracting and its possible negative effects. The House intelligence panel said one trigger for its study was the disclosure that CIFA "failed to follow policies regarding the collection and retention of information about U.S. persons."
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp–dyn/content/article/2006/05/06/AR2006050601088.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

8. *May 08, Bloomberg* — **Wachovia to buy Golden West Financial for \$25 billion.** Wachovia Corp., the fourth–biggest U.S. bank, agreed to buy Golden West Financial Corp. for about \$25

billion, accelerating its expansion in California's fast-growing market. The acquisition gives Wachovia the second-largest U.S. savings and loan with \$62 billion of deposits and 285 branches including more than 120 in California, where the population is projected to grow 6.8 percent a year, exceeding the U.S. average. Chief Executive Officer Kennedy Thompson bought three California-based lenders in the past six months to gain ground on Citigroup Inc., Bank of America Corp., and JPMorgan Chase & Co. Golden West, based in Oakland, California, has branches in ten states.

Source: <http://quote.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000006&sid=akPDN.KW6n04&refer=home>

9. *May 08, Finextra* — **UK banks rocked by millions in chip & PIN card cloning fraud.** The UK banking industry's massive investment in chip & PIN payment cards has been brought into question after scammers stole more than \$1 million from customers by implanting skimming devices in retailer PIN pads. UK police have arrested eight people connected with the fraud which affected hundreds of customers paying for goods at three Shell gas stations where tampered card readers were discovered. Shell has temporarily suspended all chip & PIN payments at UK outlets. The scammers used old-school skimming devices to capture magnetic stripe details and PIN numbers. The cloned cards were then used to withdraw cash and pay for goods at locations overseas and at machines where the chip is not scanned. The banking industry had enforced a national migration to the new scheme on the assurance that it would prevent counterfeit card fraud by making it impossible for scammers to copy confidential card details stored on the microchip. The continued use of mag-stripe data for card withdrawals, both in the UK and at cash machines abroad, represents a loophole which can be exploited by criminals. Sandra Quinn of Apacs said, "This is a specific issue for Shell...We are confident that this is not a systemic issue."

Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=15277>

10. *May 08, Finextra* — **Wells Fargo computer containing customer data missing believed stolen.** A computer containing confidential information on mortgage customers of Wells Fargo has been reported as missing and may have been stolen. The machine disappeared while being transported by a global express shipping company between Wells Fargo facilities. The bank says there is no indication that the information on the missing computer equipment has been accessed or misused and that the machine used two layers of security, making it difficult to crack. Police investigating the incident believe the machine may have been jacked for its hardware rather than information. The bank has notified affected customers.

Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=15278>

11. *May 07, Knight Ridder Tribune* — **Family business makes millions forging documents.** Forgers are making tens of millions of dollars selling counterfeit Social Security cards, driver's licenses, immigrant registration cards, and other identity papers to illegal immigrants. The dominant forgery-and-distribution network in the U.S. is controlled by the Castorena family, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials say. The Castorena Family Organization, or CFO, has spread to at least 50 cities in 33 states. Julie Myers, assistant secretary for immigration enforcement, calls document forging an epidemic. Her agency is waging a nationwide crackdown on forgery rings and has formed multiagency task forces in Detroit and nine other cities. Agency investigators say the CFO family enterprise continues to dominate the illicit document trade in the U.S. Agents are conducting more than 3,500 investigations

nationwide into document forging. They've closed document mills in Charlotte, Los Angeles, Denver, and several other cities recently. But CFO cells continue to operate. Illegal immigrants are given packages of phony documents as part of a \$2,000 smuggling fee. Others can easily make contact with vendors who operate on street corners. The CFO organization grew by employing the same principles used by successful legitimate corporations: a superior product, franchises in major cities, and a coast-to-coast sales force.

Source: <http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060507/NEWS07/605070651/1009>

[[Return to top](#)]

Transportation and Border Security Sector

12. *May 08, WESH (FL)* — **Interstate 95 remains closed in Volusia County.** More than 30 miles of Florida's Interstate 95 were closed Monday, May 8, in Volusia and Brevard counties. The combination of heavy smoke and fog caused a fatal accident on I-95 Sunday, May 7, so officials said they are taking no chances. In Volusia County, I-95 is closed in both directions between state Road 421 in Port Orange and state Road 442 in Edgewater. Officials advised drivers heading south to Fort Lauderdale and Miami to use Interstate 4 and Florida's Turnpike instead of I-95 to avoid excessive traffic delays. In Brevard County, all roads have reopened. Source: <http://www.wesh.com/news/9174244/detail.html>

13. *May 08, WCVB-TV (MA)* — **MassPort workers sleeping on job.** Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) recently spent \$21 million to automate parking at Boston's Logan International Airport. After the final plane of the night lands at Logan, soon the airport is asleep and so are Massachusetts Port Authority workers. WCVB-TV's month-long investigation of the central parking garage found work at a virtual halt. Some cashiers, whom MassPort pays more than \$50,000 a year plus benefits, were sound asleep, feet up, hat over the face, in their booths. "Obviously, something like that is not allowed and authorized or tolerated," said MassPort's Aviation Director Tom Kinton. WCVB-TV discovered during overnight visits that even with the new automated "Exit Express" system that nearly eliminates the need for manned cashier booths, two, sometimes three, well-paid cashiers were staffing central parking checkouts with absolutely nothing to do for hours. Perhaps more importantly, during the weeks WCVB-TV was in Logan's garage and terminals overnight, reporters were never asked by any Massport employees about why they were there. This leads to questions about security in addition to MassPort inefficiency. Source: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/aseenon5/9175243/detail.htm> 1

14. *May 08, Akron Beacon Journal (OH)* — **Train derails in Akron.** Akron, OH, police are trying to determine what caused a train to derail early Monday morning, May 8. Lt. Rick Edwards said it appears that vandals placed two railroad ties on the tracks, causing six to seven train cars loaded with coal to derail. As a result of the derailment, a shed containing electrical wiring that controls the signals on the tracks was destroyed, police said. The damage is estimated at \$500,000. Source: <http://www.ohio.com/mld/beaconjournal/14530163.htm>

15. *May 06, Canadian Press* — **Canadian transit train sign hacker may be surface of deep security lapse.** A prankster who altered a digital advertising sign on a Canadian transit train is one thing, but there may be a new terrorism potential in what amounts to a fundamental security flaw, says an Internet and technology expert. "Imagine changing a road sign at any given moment and having people turn left on a one-way street," Rick Broadhead, an author and analyst of e-commerce trends, said in an interview Tuesday, May 2. "The possibilities are quite frightening." On Thursday and Friday, April 27–28, and Monday, May 1, a digital billboard on Ontario's GO Transit rail system was hacked and altered to scroll the words "Stephen Harper Eats Babies." GO Transit confirmed there was "electronic vandalism" by someone using a remote-control device. Broadhead said it probably never occurred to GO Transit officials to password protect their scrolling rail-car signage but it suggests there may be other, scarier security holes out there. "When is it a prank and when does it border on terrorism?"
Source: <http://money.canoe.ca/News/Other/2006/05/06/1567552-cp.html>

16. *May 05, Associated Press* — **Airline baggage problems growing worse.** This summer air travelers will have an increasing chance that their baggage is on another flight, possibly to a different destination. A congressional panel on Wednesday, May 3, seemed sympathetic, but not helpful. "I'm afraid more baggage turmoil is almost an inevitability," said Rep. John Mica, R-FL, chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation. The likelihood that bags will be lost or late increases with air travel volume, and this summer is expected to be the busiest ever. Not only does the Federal Aviation Administration predict record numbers of passengers this year, but airplanes will be more crowded than ever. When the number of mishandled bags jumps, it usually is because an airline is having a specific problem, said John Meanen, Air Transport Association executive vice president. Often the problem is staffing, he said. Security delays also can cause bags to be lost or to arrive late, Mica said.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2006-05-04-baggage-problems_x.htm

[[Return to top](#)]

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

Agriculture Sector

17. *May 08, Western Farm Press* — **No postharvest wilt effects found in lettuce.** Management of Verticillium wilt remains a lingering concern for coastal California lettuce growers, but research during 2005 found no link between the level of the disease and postharvest quality of lettuce. Krishna Subbarao, University of California plant pathologist, said he did not detect any loss of postharvest quality attributable to *Verticillium dahliae* in two trials in the spring followed by a third in the fall. At the recent California Lettuce Research Board (CLRB) gathering near Coalinga, Subbarao said the first trial was a limited effort dealing with two romaine and two crisphead cultivars only. The second and third, however, were expanded to include three varieties each of red, greenleaf, and butterhead types and six varieties each of

romaine and crisphead. Each cultivar was rated for disease at appropriate harvest times, harvested to commercial standards, boxed, and transported to the cooler. Boxes were retrieved every week and rated for postharvest quality with parameters that consumers normally look for and signs of wilt or other problems.

Verticillium wilt information: <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r441101211.html>

Source: <http://westernfarmpress.com/news/050806-postharvest-verticillium/>

[[Return to top](#)]

Food Sector

18. *May 06, Reuters* — **Beef recalled.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Friday, May 5, said that an Oklahoma-based company has voluntarily recalled 156,235 pounds of ground beef products that may be contaminated with E. coli bacteria. The company, Fadler, Southwest Food Distributors, LLC of Tulsa, has voluntarily recalled beef products produced on various dates between February 6 and May 3. The problem was discovered through routine product testing on beef patty products that were distributed to retail establishments, restaurants and institutions in Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

Recall notice: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Recall_015-2006_Release.pdf

Source: http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=scienc eNews&storyID=2006-05-06T045953Z_01_N06420679_RTRIDST_0_SCIE NCE-BEEF-RECALL-DC.XML

19. *May 05, Food and Agriculture Organization* — **Thirty-nine countries worldwide face food crises.** Worldwide, 39 countries are in need of external food assistance, according to a new Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report released Friday, May 5. The greatest number of food emergencies continues to be in Africa, where 24 countries are currently in need of assistance, largely due to adverse weather conditions, conflict and economic crisis. In eastern Africa, recent rains have somewhat eased drought conditions in pastoral areas of Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti, but nearly eight million people are still suffering from the effects of prolonged drought. When the chronically vulnerable populations in these countries are included, the number of people at risk from hunger jumps to about 16 million, FAO says. In Sudan and Eritrea, despite this year's good harvests, large numbers of people continue to require humanitarian assistance as a consequence of past and current conflicts, the report said. In Asia, emergency assistance is needed in Mongolia and Timor-Leste following sharply reduced cereal production in 2005/2006. Substantial amounts of food assistance are also required for chronically vulnerable populations in North Korea and Bangladesh, in spite of overall improved food supply situations, as well as for those affected by civil strife in Afghanistan, Iraq and Nepal, the report said.

Source: <http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2006/1000288/index.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Water Sector

20.

May 05, Agence France–Presse — **Millions drink toxic water in northern India.** Millions of people in northern India are drinking water laced with cancer-causing chemicals. A report released this week by the public works department in India's most populous state of Uttar Pradesh, said the water was "not fit for human consumption" and could lead to cancer and other illnesses. Contaminants such as arsenic, lead and cadmium were present in groundwater sources tested in 42 out of 70 districts, State Urban Development Minister Mohammed Azam Khan said.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060505/sc_afp/healthindiawater_060505135707: ylt=Aten51kuh2eu0EjeFBs_I7SJOrgF: ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--

21. *May 05, Derrick (PA)* — Franklin wastewater treatment plant in the spotlight.

A Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection crew will be in Franklin on Tuesday, May 9, and Wednesday, May 10, shooting a few scenes at the city's wastewater treatment plant. The scenes will be included in training videos that will be used throughout the state, plant supervisor Mark Breene said. The videos will cover the basics of water and wastewater systems for emergency responders, security and emergency planning for water and wastewater systems, as well as some practical applications for law enforcement and emergency response personnel. The videos will be used to help train employees on how to protect water supplies and how to react in emergency situations to address heightened concerns of terrorist attacks and water system contamination, Breene said.

Source: <http://www.thederrick.com/stories/05062006-6102.shtml>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health Sector

22. *May 08, Reuters* — Test confirms 25th bird flu death in Indonesia. International tests have confirmed a 30-year-old Indonesian man who died last month had bird flu, a Health Ministry official said on Monday, May 8, taking the country's death toll from the virus to 25. Joko Suyono from the ministry's bird flu information center told Reuters the man had been in contact with sick fowl, the usual mode of transmission of the virus to people. "A 30-year-old male from west Jakarta who died on April 26 ... has been confirmed positive of bird flu by a Hong Kong laboratory," Suyono said. In Indonesia, the H5N1 virus has been reported in birds in about two-thirds of the country's provinces.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/SP176645.htm>

23. *May 08, Reuters* — Thailand presents bird flu plan to neighbors. Thailand presented a bird flu action plan to its poorer Southeast Asian neighbors on Monday, May 8, and called for international help for the region hit hard by the virus. The plan, covering key areas such as surveillance of poultry and control measures, was presented to officials from Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar at a meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. The H5N1 virus reemerged in Asia in 2003. Since then it has spread to more than 48 countries and killed 114 people in nine countries across the world. Vietnam, with 42 deaths out of 93 human cases reported, has the highest casualty rate but it has not had a human case of H5N1 since November. Thailand, once among the worst hit countries, has earmarked \$2.5 million to train and equip officials from its poorer neighbors. The government in secretive, military-ruled Myanmar says it has brought

bird flu under control after thousands of birds and eggs were destroyed on hundreds of farms. In Cambodia, the virus persists mainly in provinces abutting Vietnam. Laos has reported no human cases but it found bird flu among poultry in 2003.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/BKK159266.htm>

24. *May 08, Grand Forks Herald (ND)* — **Northwest Minnesota to hold pandemic drill.** Thirteen counties and three tribes in northwestern Minnesota will participate in a medical drill Thursday, May 11, to practice for major health emergencies. The drill was organized by the Minnesota Department of Health and local clinics, hospitals, fire departments and other essential personnel. The center of activity will be a pharmaceutical cache in Bemidji, which would be utilized if a real pandemic ever broke out. Each county and tribe also will have its own associated site. Baggies of 10 M&Ms each will be prepared in Bemidji and transported by law enforcement to the drill sites in each county. A statewide drill is scheduled for May 14, 2007. That drill will utilize a Strategic National Stockpile.

Source: <http://www.grandforks.com/mld/grandforks/news/14526061.htm>

25. *May 07, Agence France–Presse* — **Major anti–polio campaign begins on Afghan–Pakistan border.** Thousands of health workers have gone door–to–door in Afghanistan's most volatile areas to try to vaccinate two million children against polio. About 15,000 health workers began the three–day drive Sunday, May 7, the second this year, that will cover 11 provinces in southern and southeastern Afghanistan. Afghanistan is one of four nations where polio is still endemic, along with India, Nigeria and Pakistan. A similar vaccination campaign will begin in neighboring Pakistan Tuesday, May 9, targeting some 14 million children along the border. Six cases of the disease have been reported in Afghanistan this year. The cases were mostly in the southern province of Kandahar, one of the areas worst hit by an insurgency by the Taliban movement that sees regular suicide attacks and bomb blasts. There have been two polio cases in Pakistan so far this year.

Global Polio Eradication Initiative: <http://www.polioeradication.org/>

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060507/hl_afp/healthpolioafghanistanpakistan_060507110546;_ylt=AkwO7Fc7nq7cpZD0C3GAB7iJOrgE:_ylu=X3oDMTA5aHJvMDdwBHNIYwN5bmNhdA--

26. *May 06, Associated Press* — **World Health Organization presses for quicker bird flu reports.** Only half the world's human bird flu cases are being reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) within two weeks of being detected — a response time that must be improved to avert a pandemic, a senior WHO official said Saturday, May 6. Shigeru Omi, WHO's regional director for the Western Pacific, said it is estimated that countries would have only two to three weeks to stamp out, or at least slow, a pandemic flu strain after it began spreading in humans. The first move would be to identify cluster cases and report them to WHO, he said. International teams would then be deployed to investigate the site of the outbreak, the area would be quarantined and antiviral treatment would be administered. Omi said political commitment to fight the disease is now strong among governments across the region, but public awareness must increase so ordinary people will know what to do if they see a large number of people or birds getting sick at the same time. Experts fear the H5N1 bird flu virus, which began ravaging Asian poultry stocks in late 2003, could mutate into a strain easily passed among humans and potentially spark a global pandemic.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/05>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

27. *May 07, Midland Reporter–Telegram (TX)* — Texas conducts statewide emergency training exercise. Last week, Midland, TX, sheltered 280 evacuees forced to flee their homes on the Texas coast by a massive hurricane. It was only a drill, a statewide training exercise — the largest emergency exercise in Texas history — designed to practice mobilizing state and local resources for the next time a real hurricane evacuation is required. "I can tell you that we are very prepared in this area for whatever comes our way," said Jimmie Birden, director of emergency services for the American Red Cross of Southwest Texas. The three-day event Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, May 2–4, helped pinpoint the role of the myriad agencies involved in managing such an event.

Source: http://www.mywesttexas.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=16598095&BRD=2288&PAG=461&dept_id=475626&rft=6

28. *May 07, Journal News (NY)* — Train wreck aftermath simulated in New York county. Saturday, May 6, Metro–North Railroad operations manager Jeff Behm acted as the engineer of a four-car Metro–North train mock collision with a pickup truck as part of a staged simulated disaster in Southeast, NY. "Emergency responders need to become familiar with a railroad environment. The only way to do that is with a training exercise," Behm said. Observers, including fire academies and railroad administration officials, watched as emergency workers arrived to rescue more than 100 people who played victims trapped on the train and in the truck. "The goals of having a unified command and efficiently handling a remote location were achieved," said Joseph Streany, deputy director of Metro–North's safety department.

Source: <http://www.thejournalnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060507/NEWS04/605070318/1020/NEWS04>

29. *May 07, Free New Mexican* — New Mexico: Ahead of the nation in special needs evacuations. While Santa Fe and the rest of New Mexico lack full-fledged, tested plans for evacuating people with special needs, both are way ahead of most other places in the country, according to one disability expert. State health officials and the one-man emergency-management office for the city of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County have worked for two years on an evacuation plan, but they say a lot must be done. "There is no one-stop place that has a handle on the number (and whereabouts) of people with special needs in the area," said Martin A. Vigil, emergency-management director for the city and county. "The second problem is some people are reluctant to be labeled as special needs." But Anthony G. Cahill, director of the Division of Disability and Health Policy at the University of New Mexico, says the state is ahead of the nation in planning for people with disabilities. Cahill credits Anne

Barraza, the Department of Health's population–outreach manager, for establishing an emergency task force that includes planning for people with disabilities — a first in the nation.
Source: <http://www.freewmexican.com/news/43331.html>

30. *May 05, U.S. Department of Defense* — **Seminar seeks to streamline disaster relief.** Last week, the Marine Corps partnered with Joint Forces Command to host "Joint Urban Warrior 2006 Homeland Security/Homeland Defense," a seminar examining what happens when the military must support civil authorities in response to a major domestic natural disaster. The exercise used computer models to simulate a Category 4 hurricane traveling up the Potomac River tidal basin into Washington, DC, destroying large swaths of Virginia, Maryland, and the nation's capital. Over 100 participants attended the wargaming seminar, representing not only the Department of Defense and experienced local first responders, but also telephone companies and other infrastructure providers. Following on the hurricane's heels, they simulated a terrorist incident involving a chlorine gas spill on a rail line in nearby Lorton, VA. They said terrorists might try to capitalize on a time of national trauma at the moment first responders are stretched to their limits. Frank Jordan, director of the Marine Corps warfighting lab's wargaming division, said this seminar was part of an annual effort to study the effects of "complex urban operations."

Source: http://www.defenselink.mil/news/May2006/20060505_5035.html

31. *May 02, Stateline* — **Guard under–equipped for hurricanes.** The National Guard heads into the 2006 hurricane season with more troops at home than last year but with less equipment to handle emergencies. State–based units are short on critical equipment because guardsmen about to return from overseas assignments such as in Iraq and Afghanistan are handing off their rifles, radios and vehicles to incoming units. State officials say shortages at home of Guard equipment, such as Humvees, mean they must rely on backup assistance from neighboring states once hurricane season begins June 1. In Louisiana, about 100 of the Guard's high–water vehicles remain abroad — even as the state continues to rebuild from Hurricane Katrina. Coastal North Carolina is missing nearly half its Humvee fleet, and Guard officials there said shortages have forced the state to pool equipment from different units into one pot of hurricane supplies. Federal lawmakers have taken notice of these shortages. Congress recently allocated \$900 million to re–equip the National Guard, and there are discussions under way to make the head of the National Guard Bureau a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Source: <http://www.stateline.org/live/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=136&languageId=1&contentId=108761>

[[Return to top](#)]

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

32. *May 08, eWeek* — **SOA Software acquires Blue Titan.** SOA Software, a maker of service–oriented architecture and Web services software, announced Monday, May 8, that it has acquired Blue Titan Software, a Web services networking company. The companies did not disclose financial details of the deal.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0.1895.1958767.00.asp>

33. *May 05, CNET News* — **California man pleads guilty to bot attack.** Christopher Maxwell, a Vacaville, CA, resident, was accused of intentionally damaging a computer he was not authorized to access and using it to commit fraud. He made the guilty plea on Thursday, May 4, in federal district court in Seattle. Back in mid-2004, Maxwell and a group of co-conspirators created a network of bots using more than 13,000 zombies. Maxwell used the bot network to install adware on compromised computers, reaping commissions of approximately \$100,000 for himself and his co-conspirators, according to the initial complaint.
Source: [http://news.com.com/California+man+pleads+guilty+to+bot+atta
ck/2100-7348_3-6069238.html?tag=alert](http://news.com.com/California+man+pleads+guilty+to+bot+attack/2100-7348_3-6069238.html?tag=alert)
34. *May 05, Reuters* — **Islamic militants recruit using U.S. video games.** The creators of combat video games have unwittingly become part of a global propaganda campaign by Islamic militants to exhort Muslim youths to take up arms against the U.S., defense officials said on Thursday, May 4. Tech-savvy militants from al-Qaeda and other groups have modified video war games so that U.S. troops play the role of bad guys in running gunfights against heavily armed Islamic radical heroes, Department of Defense officials and contractors told Congress. The sites use a variety of emotionally charged content, from images of real U.S. soldiers being hit by snipers in Iraq to video-recordings of American televangelists making disparaging remarks about Islam. The underlying propaganda message, officials say, is that the U.S. is waging a crusade against Islam in order to control Middle Eastern oil, and that Muslims should fight to protect Islam from humiliation.
Source: http://news.zdnet.com/2100-1040_22-6068963.html
35. *May 05, Federal Computer Week* — **NIST issues performance metrics draft.** The National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Computer Security Division has released the initial draft for Special Publication 800-80, which involves developing metrics for information security programs. The metrics would allow agencies to measure vulnerabilities and strengths in their information security.
Draft Special Publication 800-80: [http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/drafts/draft-sp800-80-ipd.
pdf](http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/drafts/draft-sp800-80-ipd.pdf)
Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article94301-05-05-06-Web>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT is aware of publicly available, working exploit code for an unpatched vulnerability in Oracle Export Extensions. Successful exploitation may allow a remote attacker with some authentication credentials to execute arbitrary SQL statements with elevated privileges. This may allow an attacker to access and modify sensitive information within an Oracle database.

More information about this vulnerability can be found in the following:

Secunia Advisory19860

<http://secunia.com/advisories/19860>

Security Focus Oracle Vulnerability Report

<http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/17699/discuss>

Red Database Security Oracle Exploit Report

http://www.red-database-security.com/exploits/oracle-sql-injection-oracle-dbms_export_extension.html

US-CERT recommends the following actions to mitigate the security risks:

Restrict access to Oracle:

Only known and trusted users should be granted access to Oracle. Additionally, user accounts should be granted only those privileges needed to perform necessary tasks.

Change login credentials for default Oracle accounts:

Oracle creates numerous default accounts when it is installed. Upon installation, accounts that are not needed should be disabled and the login credentials for needed accounts should be changed.

Oracle has released Critical Patch Update April 2006. This update addresses more than thirty vulnerabilities in different Oracle products and components.

<http://www.oracle.com/technology/deploy/security/pdf/cpuapr2006.html>

Phishing Scams

US-CERT continues to receive reports of phishing scams that target online users and Federal government web sites. US-CERT encourages users to report phishing incidents based on the following guidelines:

Federal Agencies should report phishing incidents to US-CERT.

http://www.us-cert.gov/nav/report_phishing.html

Non-federal agencies and other users should report phishing incidents to Federal Trade Commissions OnGuard Online. <http://onguardonline.gov/phishing.html>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	38566 (---), 1026 (win-rpc), 6192 (---), 6881 (bittorrent), 25 (smtp), 445 (microsoft-ds), 80 (www), 50497 (---), 32459 (---), 49159 (---) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
----------------------------	---

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

[[Return to top](#)]

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

General Sector

36. *May 08, Associated Press* — More than a thousand ordered to flee Florida brush fire.

Smoldering brush fires kept about 1,000 people from their homes early Monday, May 8, and the heavy smoke shut down parts of Interstate 95 between Daytona Beach and the Cape Canaveral area. At least one home was destroyed and about 1,000 acres scorched by the fires that began Friday, May 5, and flared up through the weekend, officials said. "Our problem is no rain, dry conditions and strong winds," said Greg Dunn, a spokesperson for the Division of Forestry.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/weather/news/2006-05-07-florida-fire_x.htm

[[Return to top](#)]

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

[DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website:
<http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:	Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983-3644.
Subscription and Distribution Information:	Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983-3644 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.